

## ASHES IN MEXICO.

Inhabitant Near Comitán, State of Chiapas, Terrified by Disturbances. Sun Hidden by the Volcano Dust.

Mexico City, Oct. 27.—There is no little consternation felt by the inhabitants of many towns and cities in the remote south country on account of showers of ashes falling into the extensive region from San Juan Bautista, capital of the State of Tabasco, and Comitán, in the State of Chiapas, as far north as Salina Cruz, the western terminus of the Tehuantepec National Railway.

It is believed, according to reports received by Indians that a hill near Palanque, where there is a great pre-historic city in ruins, has suddenly been transformed into an active volcano. The ashes falling at Palanque have hidden the sun and also at Comitán and a great fear has come on the people. Palanque is the center of the disturbance as the burning mountain is said to be near there. There is some anxiety as regards Chiapas. Indians arriving at San Christobal Las Casas say that a hill in the Guadalupe Sierra is vomiting fire and smoke.

People in many towns have been running about in terror and offering prayers publicly for the safety of themselves and children. Scientific opinion is that all this is part of the general awakening of volcanic forces in the West Indies and Central America.

## SCRUNGER IS A NEW WORD.

A small boy approached two men who were standing in front of the Courthouse yesterday and asked them for car fare to East New York. He had lost his money and feared he would have to walk home. He was asked why he could not get five cents from his office.

"Ah, dey're all scrungers, down dere," he said, disgustedly.

"What do you mean, boy?"

"W'y, dey're afraid to lent a fellow a nickel; dey are," he answered.

The word was a new one on the men, and they proceeded to seek further wisdom. One down town youngster whom they approached knew nothing of their newly acquired word. The next, an urchin something more than knee high, grinned when they asked him if he knew what a scrunger was.

"Sure I do," he replied.

"What is it?"

"A feller wot don't wanten give anything," he said, with more grin, "right?"

Whereupon the men concluded that scrunger was good down town Manhattanese. It is pronounced skrun-ger, and needs but to be spoken to be appreciated as a good, vigorous vocable.—New York Sun.

## RESULTS OF A TEMPERANCE LECTURE.

Two maiden sisters of mature years had been to a temperance lecture. To demonstrate the disastrous effect of alcohol upon life, the lecturer had poured a portion of whisky into a glass, which contained water and a mass of lively animalcules of different unsightly shapes and sizes. The result of the mixture was that the shoals of ugly-looking fishes were soon bereft of life and were seen floating helplessly in the water.

On the way home, when nearing a saloon, one sister remarked to the other:

"Mary, will you go in and get some whisky?"

"Some whisky!" astonishingly remarked the other.

"Yes, dear, for I really can never again drink water with all those horrible things floating about. I would rather drink them dead than alive."

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